

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2761

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1484

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DEPARTMENT AT ITS DISCRETION PASS AMEMBASSY MEXICO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OCON

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR SOSA RODRIGUEZ
ON ENERGY ISSUES AT MEXICO

REF: A. CARACAS 1394 B. STATE 27793

1. AS HE HAD PROMISED, AMBASSADOR SOSA RODRIGUEZ CALLED ON ME TODAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TOMORROW FOR MEXICO WITH A STOPOVER IN PUERTO RICO TO SEE HIS ELDEST SON, JULIO. THE AMBASSADOR WILL NOW REACH MEXICO CITY ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, AND IF POSSIBLE WE SHALL TELEGRAPH FLIGHT INFORMATION TO MIAMI RECEPTION CENTER AND TO SAN JUAN.

2. IN A VERY GENERAL WAY I WENT OVER SOME OF THE ITEMS ON OUR DRAFT PAPER ON ENERGY ISSUES AT THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE, STRESSING OUR EMPHASIS ON THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH. I MADE THE POINT TAKEN IN THE PAPER THAT IN FACT THE IDEA OF A REGIONAL APPROACH TO COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES COULD BE CONSIDERED VENEZUELAN IN ORIGIN BECAUSE OF THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE IN PRESSING FOR THE FORMATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ENERGY ORGANIZATION OLADE. BORROWING ALSO FROM THE PAPER, I SAID WE MIGHT LIKEWISE HAVE AN OPEN MIND AS TO PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATION
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WITH THE OAS OR THE IDB IN A JOINT EFFORT TO SPEED THE DEVELOPMENT

OF THE REGION'S ENERGY RESOURCES, CONVENTIONAL AND NON-CONVENTIONAL.

3. AMBASSADOR SOSA SAID THAT HE CERTAINLY AGREED WITH THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH CONCEPT AND WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL URGE THIS ON HIS FOREIGN MINISTER IN MEXICO. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT DIRECTLY REFER TO THE ROLE OF IDB. AMBASSADOR SOSA HIMSELF BROACHED THE SUBJECT, SAYING THAT HE HAD HEARD REPORTS IN CARACAS THAT POSSIBLY THE NEW AD GOVERNMENT MIGHT GO ALONG WITH A PROPOSAL CONSIDERABLE TO INCREASE VENEZUELAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO IDB FUNDS ON CONDITION, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. WOULD NO LONGER EXERCISE ITS PRESENT VETO OVER THAT PORTION OF THE FUNDS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED TO RELIEVING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WERE IN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING THE MEANS WHEREWITH TO PURCHASE PETROLEUM. THIS COMMENT REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO REF B.

4. AMBASSADOR SOSA REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLED AT ALGERIAN INITIATIVE IN WHICH APPARENTLY NOT ONLY WOULD THE WORLD'S ENERGY REQUIREMENTS BE DISCUSSED BUT ALSO THE NEEDS OF THIRD WORLD NATIONS AND THE LDC'S FOR EITHER SCARCE RAW MATERIALS OR HIGH PRICED IMPORTS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (CF CARACAS 1441). WE AGREED THAT, FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HERE OF THE COSTA RICAN AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTS-ELECT, IT SEEMED PROBABLE THAT THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIVE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS VS MANUFACTURED GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD SOON BE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. SOSA SAID HE HIMSELF HAD ONLY YESTERDAY BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING IN PARIS NEXT JUNE OF THE EUROPEAN EQUIVALENT OF THE COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WOULD ALSO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE SAME ISSUES.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE IN AMBASSADOR SOSA NOT ONLY AN INTELLIGENT AND EXPERIENCED VENEZUELAN ENGINEER-INDUSTRIALIST-DIPLOMAT BUT ALSO A MAN WHO IS CAPABLE OF SEEING BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION AND WHO IS SINCERELY WELL ORIENTED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR SIDE IN MEXICO IF SOSA COULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH

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SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE ASKED ME AGAIN AS TO THE SUGGESTED DATE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN DR. CALVANI AND THE SECRETARY, AND I REPEATED WHAT I HAD BEEN TOLD BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH IN LIMA, THAT THE SUGGESTED DATE WAS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, AT 6:30 P.M. CALVANI WILL PROBABLY BE IN IMMEDIATE TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA UPON HIS ARRIVAL NOT ONLY TO CONFIRM THIS DATE BUT FOR A MORE GENERAL REVIEW OF OUR POSITIONS AT THE CONFERENCE. BECAUSE HE IS AN OUTGOING

FOREIGN MINISTER OF GREAT SENIORITY, CALVANI IN MY JUDGMENT
CAN BE A VERY HELPFUL PARTICIPANT IN THE CONFERENCE
SINCE HE HAS NO REAL AX TO GRIND BUT BECAUSE OF HIS KEEN
INTELLIGENCE AND WIDE EXPERIENCE WILL WISH TO PALY A CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE.

6. ARA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRIEF OUR DELEGATION ON
JAIME LUSINCHI AND COLUMNIST LUIS ESTEBEN REY
WHO, AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ARE THE
AD OBSERVERS ON THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION. LUIS
ESTEBEN REY IS AN ESPECIALLY GOOD FRIEND OF BILL LUERS,
NOW DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT.
MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: CARACAS 1484 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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